

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed January 14, 2005, claims 2-7 and 20 were objected. Claims 8-19 and 21-43 were allowed. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 6 and 20 have been amended. Claim 1 has been cancelled. No claims have been added.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Examiner objected claims 20-22 because of an improper dependency.

Applicants have amended claim 20 to conform with the Examiner's requests. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to these claims be removed.

Claims 21-22 are also objected to as being dependent upon an objected base claim 20. In light of the amendment to claim 20 to alter the dependency to an allowable claim, claim 18, Applicants respectfully request that these claims are allowable as well.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,625,644 to Meyers (hereinafter referred to as "Meyers"). In light of the

cancellation of claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to the claim be removed.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability on claims 2-7, 8-19 and 23-43. In line with the Examiner's suggestions, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim. Claim 3, 4 and 6 have been amended to alter their dependency to claim 2. As such, these claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections to the claims be removed. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1703 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

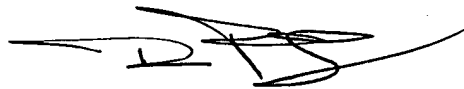
Docket No. 87288.1560
Serial No.: 09/918,716
Customer No. 30734

Patent

In the event this paper is not time filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 87288.1560.

Respectfully submitted,

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